

Data Quality Control

Each of the data collection sources has separate but similar sampling procedures, data protocols, and reporting methodologies. Our facility uses data quality control guidelines in the interpretation of source-specific datasheets as described by the Procedure Manual for Age, Growth, and Reproduction (AGR) Lab (NMFS 2004; NMFS 2008). First, each species-specific collection is assigned an annual collection (or tracking) number and all collection-specific data (i.e. source, source number, state, sector, and gear) are proofed and entered in our Annual AGR Access Databases from the original datasheets. If such data are not provided, then the collector (port agent and/or survey leader) is contacted to track down the missing data. Our Annual AGR Access Databases were constructed with field-specific lists of suitable values (e.g. source, state, sector, and gear), validation rules, and user-specific security for data accessibility to enhance our data quality control procedures. Additionally, the source number (or interview number) is a source-specific number (or combination of intercept specific numbers) that permits the cross-referencing of data between databases (original source and Annual AGR Database). Next, after all the individual fish data are entered, proofing sheets are reviewed against the original datasheets and any corrections are made to the Annual AGR Database. Finally, all proofing sheets are initialed, dated and filed for further reference. Prior to 1998, no manual existed to implement these procedures. Therefore, to insure these standards of quality control, all 1991-1997 data were proofed using the TIP original datasheets (archived in Panama City, FL) and any missing data were resolved by accessing the TIP database (DELPHI, SEFHOST).

See SEDAR Documents:

2010. Golden tilefish (*Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps*) age, growth, and reproduction from the northeastern Gulf of Mexico: 1985, 1997-2009. SEDAR 22 DW-01.

2009. Lombardi, L., G. Fitzhugh, C. Palmer, B. Barnett, L. Goetz, and C. Fioramonti. Summary of gag and red grouper age data from the northeastern Gulf of Mexico for SEDAR (10/12) update: 2006-2008. NMFS/Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Panama City Laboratory Contribution 09-06.

2006. Lombardi-Carlson, L., Chris Palmer, Chris Gardner and Bob Farsky. Temporal and spatial trends in red grouper (*Epinephelus morio*) age and growth from the northeastern Gulf of Mexico: 1979-2005. SEDAR 12-DW-03. St. Petersburg, FL. Panama City Laboratory Contribution 2006-09.

2006. Lombardi-Carlson, L.A., Fitzhugh, G.R., Fable, W.A., Ortiz, M., and C. Gardner. Age, length, and growth of Gag (*Mycteroperca microlepis*) from the northeastern Gulf of Mexico: 1979-2005. NMFS/SEFSC Panama City Laboratory Contribution 06-03. 2006. SEDAR10DW-02.
2002. Lombardi-Carlson, L.A., Fitzhugh, G.R., and J. J. Mikulas. Red grouper (*Epinephelus morio*) age-length structure and description of growth from the eastern Gulf of Mexico: 1992-2001. NMFS/Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Panama City Laboratory Contribution 2002- 06.